

Public Facilities & Spaces Report
Evaluation and Action Commission

The Library Buildings Report

Library Naming in Howard County (an overview)

It was originally suggested to our commission that the naming of libraries was a state function only in which there was no local control, but we discovered that to be incorrect. After ascertaining the history of a local policy, we kept it in mind while we reviewed and revised the report content to make it accurate. The last commission did not have use of the Board of Library Trustees meeting minutes, which were vital to our understanding of what transpired with our libraries.

There was a lot to sort through that began with a time period when library service was done by volunteers out of their stores, homes and vehicles. It continued into the time period of when Columbia was being built and libraries that no longer exist (like the “Wilde Lake Village Library” at the village center) were created. The library board still exists, and still meets.

We knew that there was one branch that was definitely named for a person: the Charles E. Miller Branch and Historical Center. The process we were able to piece together regarding how that branch is named for a person is contained in this report. We discovered that there were at least two other documented instances in which requests were made by citizen groups to name a branch after a person, and we include them here. In the first instance, a member of the Howard County King Memorial Committee wrote a letter dated October 21, 1986 to the Board of Library Trustees requesting that the Central Library be renamed after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Board responded that it “..in a lengthy and very thoughtful process over the past several years, evolved a policy of not naming library facilities for any person living or dead.”¹ This was seven years after the renaming of the Frederick Road library to Miller documented herein. In the second instance, the Rotary Club of Elkridge made the 1986 offer to contribute \$25,000 to the library in exchange for it being named after Dr. Benjamin Brumbaugh. Brumbaugh had been a local doctor.² The Board of Library Trustees had constituted a Committee For Naming Future Libraries, and a suggested policy got created by them which was found in the March 12, 1986 meeting minutes. The board approved the policy and voted to table the request regarding Brumbaugh.³ Years later, the newly constructed Miller branch went through a process to get its name, documented herein. For the most part, we were unable to find documentation of a deliberative process conducted by the Board of Library Trustees to name the libraries, except for their documented involvement in the Frederick Road renaming after the death of Charles E. Miller.

Constraints

Due to the time period in question and the lens we are asked to view namesakes with, we must acknowledge an impediment that exists to a more robust reporting. Without access to the records

¹ See Central Library writeup herein

² Brumbaugh Naming Request. Board of Library Trustees Meeting Minutes, 1986. Courtesy, Howard County Library

³ Naming Policy. Howard County Board of Library Trustees Meeting Minutes, March 12, 1986. Courtesy, Howard County Library

of the local Interracial Commission (and its successor Human Relations Commission) our commission's job is made more difficult. We made multiple requests of the county to locate records for our review, and none have been received by us to date. One of our researchers was able to gain access in Annapolis to annual reports compiled by the state commission of that name, verifying that there were references within them that mentioned incidents in Howard County. Who they involved is potentially relevant to this report and subject, since Mr. Miller was not only a local elected official and legislator but also a business man and land developer.

Summary of changes

Our work on the county libraries began with examining the last commission report. We were fortunate to have access to the source documents that were used to create the last library writeups, due to a commissioner employed by the library having retained the records for their files. We make note of general and necessary corrections to the assets and list them in this overview. They are:

- We found multiple inaccuracies in the deed records for several libraries, which affected the data regarding ownership, dates and transaction amounts. The correct deeds are cited in this report, and are attached as exhibits. Hopefully, the data can be changed by the county clerk's office so that other SDAT users can have accurate information.
- We could not locate any source in the report that referenced the naming date nor the party responsible for the naming of the libraries. Each box contained space for "When/Who Named" but only "Howard County Government" was listed for them all, which was incorrect. Our research discovered that it was the Howard County Library Board of Trustees (a separate entity, appointments by the Governor for much of the pertinent time we examined) which created a policy regarding the naming of libraries and the rooms within them, and only a few naming instances involved county government.
- We found that the library names were incomplete, as many like Miller also include things such as "Historical Center". We corrected them accordingly.
- We made other changes to the reports that we deemed necessary.

Naming Policy

The policy for library names was noted to be the following in 1988, which we kept in mind while reviewing and revising the report to make it accurate:

ITEM #10 Naming of Libraries and Areas of Libraries

Policy for Naming Future Libraries:

A library shall be named for the geographic area which it serves. However, a room or an area of a library or a memorial endowment fund may be named for a person who has had a distinguished record of service within the Howard County community.

The libraries we reviewed all had been named prior to 1998, with the exception of the current Ellicott City library (Miller) opened in 2011. By 2009, the language of the policy had changed slightly to “typically”, as was found in “Supplement 3”.

Naming of Future Branches or Areas Within a Branch

Typically, a branch will be named for the geographic area that it serves. A room or an area of a branch may be named for a person who has had a distinguished record of service within the Howard County community, or, in recognition of a substantial donation.

A written request for this honor may be made to the Executive Director & CEO by any branch of the County Government, any County organization, a County resident, or a family member. The request should include the reason(s) the individual should be honored and should describe the individual's accomplishments and contributions to the community and/or Howard County Library.

In the source files, the name for each of the libraries researched is placed in front of the file name to make it easier for the reader to locate and match.

** The research contained in the sheets that follow was done using the time and energy of the Commissioners who are listed as follows: (MG) Marg Goodlin, (WD) Wayne Davis, (MJ) Marlena Jareaux and (DS) Dhaval Shah. Their contributions are noted at the end of each asset report. Claudia Allen provided necessary support in compiling the research into the form you see herein, which was patterned after the last commission's format and amended to reflect the desires of our commission.*

Public Facilities & Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission

The Library Buildings Report

January 9, 2023

Asset Name	Howard County Library System, Administrative Branch
Classification	Building
Location	9411 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042
Dates	1962 as a library, renamed 1979, renovated 2014 as Administrative
Who Named	Howard County Council by resolution, then changed again
Reason for Name	Memorial to Miller then (assuming) purpose descriptive
Association with Slavery or Oppression – No.	

*** writeup is done on the current name, as opposed to the historic name.**

Summary:

Charles E. and Grace Miller purchased two parcels of land from Elizabeth, George, and William Sloatfield on May 14, 1943.⁴ The property called Gray Rock, owned by Miller, was subdivided into 300 acres for a development that included a plot donated to the library.⁵ Howard County's first permanent library building, now the Administrative Branch, was constructed on this plot. It was reported on April 1, 1960 in *The Baltimore Sun* that citizens and businesses jointly cooperated with a "public subscription of \$160,000" for the construction of the building." It was reported that George Morrison made a \$60,000 donation and Charles E. Miller donated \$25,000, including the value of the land.⁶ Miller and his wife transferred the land for the library to the Board of Library Trustees of Howard County on December 30, 1960.⁷ The building sitting on the two-acre site ultimately was formally turned over to the Board on May 5, 1962.⁸ According to meeting minutes from the Library Board of Trustees, it was often referred to as the "Frederick Road location."

The library was noted in the 1971 General Plan to be inadequate for a desired Central Library.⁹ However, it was suitable to serve as a branch. In a capital project expenditure request dated December 15, 1978, it was noted that the branch needed to be increased by approximately 15,000 sq ft in order to reach the goal of 22k sq ft.¹⁰ The results of a meeting with Charles Miller about the acquisition of more land for the expansion was recorded in the April 9, 1979 meeting minutes. It was reported to the Library Board that Miller "...may not be able to donate any land to the Library. He will require the library to purchase additional land to the stream at half of the

⁴ Referenced in the Admin Building writeup

⁵ 2021 Public Spaces Commission report, p 33

⁶ "Library For Howard" *The Sun* (1837-); Apr 1, 1960; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun* p 14

⁷ Miller to Library. Howard County Circuit Court (Land Records), Book RHM 363, p 432

⁸ "Howard County Library". *The Sun* (1837-); Apr 1, 1962; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun* p RE9

⁹ 1971 General Plan, p 52

¹⁰ Capital Project Expenditure Request for Frederick Road Branch, dated December 15, 1978. Howard County Library archival records.

cost per acre of the originally requested land.”¹¹ Charles E. Miller passed away on July 9, 1979, and a newspaper reported that he had contributed “...2 acres and \$15,000 for a county library,”¹² which was the original parcel. We have not been able to determine if the Library Board or the County paid for additional land for the expansion, or if it was donated.

On August 6, 1979, during the legislative session, the County Council co-sponsored resolution #156 with County Executive J. Hugh Nichols that proclaimed that “the Frederick Road Branch be and is hereby renamed the Charles E. Miller Memorial Library.”¹³ Council requested that the County Executive prepare and erect a plaque on the building. Written testimony from the then Board of Library Trustees reported that they had approved the pending action on August 2, 1979.¹⁴ This provided the accurate date for when the branch was renamed.

In 2010, it was reported that \$780k was included in County Executive Ken Ulman’s capital budget to “..plan conversion of the current Miller branch into library administrative space, which when complete would free 9,000 square feet at the East Columbia library where administrative offices are located.”¹⁵ *See separate writeup on the Charles E. Miller Branch and Historical Center for information regarding Miller.* The renovated structure is now used as the library administrative branch. A 50+ exercise center operated by the Office of Aging and Independence shares the building.

At one time, a Burgess meeting room existed inside which was described in 2001 meeting minutes as being named for the county’s “first librarian”. Language was approved by the library board in 2002, and a plaque was installed in her honor in the building.¹⁶ There are currently no meeting rooms available for public use in the building.

/MJ and WD

¹¹ Frederick Road expansion. Meeting Minutes of the Howard County Board of Library Trustees, April 9, 1979. Howard County Library archival records.

¹² “Charles Miller, Howard Republican, dies” The Sun (1837-); July 10, 1979; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun* p A8

¹³ Howard County Council Resolution 156 renaming Miller Branch Library from 1979 Legislative Session. Courtesy, Howard County Council

¹⁴ Written testimony supporting Resolution No. 156.

¹⁵ Carson, Larry. “Officials Unveil \$211 Million Howard Capital Budget” April 4, 2010. ProQuest Recent Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun* p G4

¹⁶ Meeting Minutes of the Howard County Board of Library Trustees, several dates.

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January 9, 2023

Asset Name	Howard County Library System, Central Branch
Classification	Building
Location	10375 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia MD 21044
Dates	Opened in 1981, renovated 2000-2001 and 2016-2017
Who Named	unknown
Reason for Name	Assume purpose descriptive
Association with Slavery or Oppression – No.	

Summary:

In the 1971 General Plan for Howard County, the recommendation was made that there be a “new proposed central library” for the County and that the “..present location on Frederick Road is not ideal for a future central library for the county because of its interior arrangement..”¹⁷ In 1975, Library Director Marvin Thomas formed the Central Library United Effort citizen committee to facilitate the planning process for a new location for the central library.¹⁸ It was reported in May 1977 that Howard Research and Development Corporation (HRDC) offered to donate 2-2.5 acres of land near the south entrance road to Columbia for a central library, but that a site closer to the Columbia Mall was preferred.¹⁹ Three potential sites had been before the Howard County Planning Board, which indicated to the County Council a few years earlier that the site should be under its review.²⁰ It was reported in June 1977 that the Library Board of Trustees recommended a Columbia Mall site, and that HRDC offered to donate an acre for that site. It was also reported that the south entrance location would need 3 acres total for future expansion. Both recommendations went to the County Council and they made the site selection decision.²¹

A May 1979 article reported that HRDC donated additional acreage to make 3.1 acres total, citing preservation motives.²² A June 1980 article mentioned that the administrative staff were moving into the building, and that half of the library system’s volumes would be in the new building.²³ A December 1980 article in *The Baltimore Sun* provided an overview of the events

¹⁷ 1971 Howard County General Plan, p 52

¹⁸ Morgan, Michael. “Opening of new central library is good news for county bookworms.” *The Sun*. Dec. 28, 1980, p.2

¹⁹ Clark, Michael J. “Columbia library site offered”. *The Sun* (1837-1995). May 2, 1977, p.40

²⁰ Clark, Michael J. “25-year Howard library project wins favor with county planners.” *The Sun*. Nov. 21, 1975. pC6

²¹ Clark, Michael J. “Board votes on Columbia library site”. *The Sun* (1837-1995). June 9, 1977

²² “Developer donates more ‘open space’ to save trees at library site.” *The Sun* (1837-1995). May 3, 1978. p 31

²³ Lynch, Mary. “Library cuts costs”. *Columbia Flier*. June 26, 1980

that led to the creation of the central library that stood “..in a grove of mature trees.”²⁴ The opening date to the public for the Central Library was scheduled for January 5, 1981, and a ceremony occurred the day before.²⁵ HCLS Central Branch is a 47,000 square foot, 2 -story public library in downtown Columbia, Maryland near the Columbia Mall and Lake Kittamaquundi.²⁶ It has undergone two renovations, one in 2000-01 and another in 2016-17.

We attempted to verify the ownership of the building, since it was mentioned in the last commission’s report and since historically some were owned by the Library Board of Trustees. The SDAT (Maryland State Department of Assessments & Taxation) listing for the address indicates that “Howard County Maryland Library” is the owner, and a deed reference of book 01879 page 00257 is indicated.²⁷ However, our examination of the deed referenced is actually for a Maintenance Agreement for private storm water management facilities.²⁸ We are therefore unable to verify who the current owner is of the land through that mechanism.

In terms of the name, we note that the 1982 General Plan referred to this library as “The Central Library” and distinguished it from the Miller “branch” library and other reading centers that then existed. The 1971 General Plan originally made the distinction between the central library and other future branches. Older images for the library show a sign for the facility with “central library” without the word “branch” as the other facilities do. One of our researchers was told that a decision had been made at some point in time that all of the libraries should be called branches, which accounts for why Central is now referred to as a branch.

It’s important to note that this was not the first “Central Library” in Howard County, nor was it the first branch located in Columbia. The earliest written naming policy that was located for the County Library System was enacted in 1988, after this library got its name. Unfortunately, we were unable to find evidence in the Board of Library Trustees meeting minutes that a process was used to decide what the name would be. We did locate written communication between David Rakes (representative of the Howard County King Memorial Committee) and the Library Board, dated in the year 1986, requesting support for an effort to rename the Central Library in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The letter mentioned the “..board’s policy of discouraging the naming of libraries for individuals.”²⁹ the President of the board responded that “..the central facility is so designated to communicate the concept of that facility as a central resource for the entire county..” We also noted that when the county library system was reorganized in 1963, circulation numbers were noted from bookmobile operations and the “Central Library.”³⁰ At that time, this would have been referring to the Frederick Road branch.

²⁴ Morgan, Michael. “Opening of new central library is good news for county bookworms.” *The Sun*. Dec. 28, 1980, p 2.

²⁵ Image of central library, Howard County Library System archival records

²⁶ 2021 Public Facilities and Spaces report

²⁷ SDAT listing for central library branch address, searched September 21, 2022

²⁸ Deed in SDAT. Howard County Circuit Court (Land Records) CMP1879 p 257-259

²⁹ 1986 communications regarding naming Central after MLK Jr. Howard County Library archival records.

³⁰ 1963 reference to Central. Board of Library Trustees meeting minutes, Howard County Library archival records

We also note that this facility has two meeting rooms: Maxine White Warfield Room, and Collage Conference Room. Maxine Warfield was a prior member of the Library Board of Trustees. We did not seek information concerning when that naming was done.

/MJ and MG

DRAFT

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Asset Name	Howard County Library System, East Columbia Branch
Classification	Building
Location	6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045
Dates	Opened in 1994; named in ---_ ; renovated 2018
Who Named	unknown
Reason for Name	Assume geographic descriptive
Association with Slavery or Oppression – No.	

Summary:

During the planning of Central Library in 1975, a request was made for the County Council to approve funds that would enable the library system to rent space for a branch in East Columbia.³¹ This is the first recorded instance of the use of the name “East Columbia” for a library branch in Howard County. Space was rented in the Long Reach shopping center, and was closed a few years later in 1981. This was around the same time that the Wilde Lake library branch closed.³² It was also during this period that the East Columbia Village Board United Effort Committee for a Branch Library was advocating for a permanent branch in the east part of Columbia in the 1980s.³³ The need arose due to a 1986 finding that “..after five years of operation, the {central} library is too busy to provide its specialized function and effective service to both east and west Columbia.”³⁴ The Howard County Board of Library Trustees reportedly appointed The East Columbia Library Site Committee to study possible locations for a branch, and four potential sites were reported to have emerged.³⁵ A citizen committee created by the Board of Library Trustees and the Owen Brown Village Board began vetting sites in 1987 and ultimately the site on Cradlerock was selected by County Executive Liz Bobo, according to a newspaper article published in *The Baltimore Sun*.³⁶ It was reported in a 1992 newspaper headline “Construction to begin on East Columbia library” in order to relieve pressure for the Central Library.³⁷ The library was to also house a 50+ senior center and a book drive-through. The East Columbia branch

³¹ Glick, Ruth. “Library, Like Director’s Office, is Bulging At The Seams” *The Times*. May 21 1975

³² Lynch, Mary. “Library seen risking autonomy.” *Columbia Flier*. September 11, 1980.

³³ Nerreau, Deidre. “Library proposals stack up.” *The Sun*. January 6, 1988. ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun* p H2

³⁴ “Plans being developed for library in east Columbia” *The Sun*/ June 21, 1987; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun* p P11

³⁵ Powder, Jackie. “Library board to consider 4 sites for Columbia branch” *The Sun*; February 19, 1989; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun* p P4

³⁶ . Boller, Donna E. “Education board yields school site to library branch: Path clear to build on Cradlerock Way” *The Sun* (1837-); Apr 3, 1991; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun* p I5

³⁷ “Construction to begin on East Columbia library” *The Sun*. June 14, 1992; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun*. p O2

opened in August 1994 and was reported to have been funded by the Howard County Department of Public Works. When it opened, there was one central library and four branch libraries.³⁸ It was renovated between 2016-2018, and also houses a teen center.

As for the naming of the library, we did not find evidence in the Board of Library Trustees meeting minutes that a process was used to decide what the name would be, quite possibly because one was not being used. The earliest naming policy that was located for the County library system was enacted in 1988, after this library was already being referred to as the East Columbia Library.

This branch has rooms named for: Lucille Clifton Room and Marvin Thomas Room. Marvin Thomas was a long-time President of the County library system. Lucille Clifton was Poet Laureate of Maryland from 1979-1985. We did not seek information concerning when that naming was done.

/MG and MJ

³⁸ Sevilla, Graciella. "New Library is One for the Books", *The Washington Post*, Aug 8, 1994. p Mo1

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Asset Name	Howard County Library System, Elkridge Branch + DIY Education Center
Classification	Building
Location	6540 Washington Blvd., Elkridge, MD 21075
Dates	Opened in 1993; Major renovations in March 2018
Who Named	unknown
Reason for Name	Assume geographic descriptive
Association with Slavery or Oppression – No.	

Summary:

The current Elkridge Branch opened its doors on August 23, 1993. It reportedly replaced the Elkridge Community Library which we were not able to confirm when it first opened. However, it did house only 3,000 books.³⁹

There had been significant community involvement in the quest to build a larger library in Elkridge that started before the small community library opened.⁴⁰ Activists Ed Huber and Ellen V. Schultz, both members of the Elkridge Master Plan Citizens Review Committee, organized letter writing campaigns and spoke out at County Council meetings with crowds of other Elkridge residents to let County Executive Charles I. Ecker and the council members know that Elkridge deserved a library on par with those in Columbia and Ellicott City.^{41 42} A new site near Washington Boulevard and Hunt Club Road was agreed upon by the Howard County Library Board of Trustees and then by the Howard County Council. The budget and some of the project details are contained in the documentation for County Council Bill 38 in 1988.⁴³ It opened in August 1993. The DIY Education Center is run by the library, without any nonprofit assistance.

In the prior commission report it was written that “The name Elkridge or Elk Ridge dates back as far as 1702 when it was first recorded on tax records.” (pg 40 of report). Historian Joetta Cramm

³⁹ Sherry, Joe. “Elkridge Bookworms Soon to get Spacious Accommodations.” Aug. 9, 1993. *The Baltimore Sun*. <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-1993-08-09-1993221064-story.html>

⁴⁰ Low, Stuart. “Building boom stirs Elkridge.” *The Sun* (1837-); Jul 18, 1984; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun* p HS1

⁴¹ Sinclair, Molly. “Elkridge Opens its New Library.” Sept. 2, 1993. *The Washington Post*. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1993/09/02/elkridge-opens-its-new-library/d5afef3a-3d3e-486f-88ec-a3cb2d307c51/>

⁴² Coram, James M. [Long-awaited libraries gain backing in budget – Baltimore Sun March 4, 1993](#)

⁴³ County Council of Howard County, Maryland. 1988 *Legislative Session Bill no. 38. 08/01/1988*. <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/LegislationDetail.aspx?LegislationID=7370>

was attributed as the source of the information that the name derived from “Ridge of Elk”⁴⁴ and we believe that her source was a book called “My Lovely World” by Lulu Townsend Armstrong Geissinger although we don’t know for sure since no source was given by Cramm. It is the only reference to “Ridge of Elks” that we’ve been able to find.⁴⁵

The first documented use of the term “Elk Ridge” that was found in historical records was in a 500 acre land certificate for “Adam the First” located on a “Ridge called Elkridge” was granted to Adam Shipley in 1687.⁴⁶ At that time the Baltimore County boundary extended south of the Patapsco River. Also that year, Major Edward Dorsey received 599 acres of land called Majors Choice near the Patapsco River “on a ridge called Elk Ridge”.⁴⁷ It is interesting to note that both the term Elk Ridge and Elkridge seemed to be interchangeable in 1687.

As noted in the beginning of this report compilation, a request was made to name this branch after a well-known doctor, Brumbaugh, which the Board of Library Trustees declined to do. This branch has meeting rooms named: Belmont, Hockley and Grist Mill. We did not seek information concerning when that naming was done.

/WD and MJ with support from DS

⁴⁴ Cramm, Joetta M. (2004). A Pictorial History of Howard County. Expanded Edition. p 25. The Donning Company Publishers, Virginia Beach, Virginia

⁴⁵ Cramm possible source. Geissinger, Lulu Townsend Armstrong. My Lovely World. (1969) Accessible via FamilySearch.org title no 26948. p 141

⁴⁶ Adam Shipley. (1687, April 8). Adam the First Land Patent. Liber NS2 Folio 571. Maryland State Archives. SR7371. p 571.

⁴⁷ Major Edward Dorsey. (1687, October 15). Majors Choice Land Patent. Liber NS2 Folio 717. Maryland State Archives. SR 7371. p 717

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January 9, 2023

Asset Name	Howard County Library System, Glenwood Branch
Classification	Building
Location	2350 State Route 97, Cooksville, Maryland 21723
Dates	Opened on August 28, 2000
Who Named	Unknown
Reason for Name	Assume geographic descriptive
Association with Slavery or Oppression – No.	

Summary:

A committee made up of residents and library staff was formed in 1988 to study the need for a branch library, or several small community libraries, in the western part of Howard County.⁴⁸ The negotiations to acquire land to build a library in the western part of the County were reported in the March 24, 1994 issue of *The Baltimore Sun*.⁴⁹ Internal records of the Board of Library Trustees referred to the project as “Glenwood Community Center” in the June 15, 1994 meeting minutes.⁵⁰ It was noted in FY1995 budget documents, included in the September 7, 1994 Board of Library Trustees meeting minutes, that the library would be “within or adjacent to the Glenwood Community Center.”⁵¹

In capital budget documents dated September 14, 1995, a plan was noted that the “Library building will be the first new building to be constructed and opened on the site.”⁵² By July 1996, ideas were sought from the community regarding the planned government complex and regional park on a 181-acre parcel that would contain the library.⁵³ It was noted that the project idea for a government complex with a fire station and a library had come up in 1993. An article published in August 1996 reported that land north of Glenwood Park owned by Penny Gray had been sold to the County in 1994.⁵⁴ In early 1997, the library was already referred to in internal County documents from the Library Board as “Glenwood Branch Library.”⁵⁵ Furthermore, in 1997 a

⁴⁸ Howard County Board of Library Trustees meeting minutes, June 18, 1988. Howard County Library archival records.

⁴⁹ Nelson, Erik “County negotiating to acquire land to build park, multipurpose center”. 24, March 1994; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun*, p 3B

⁵⁰ Board of Library Trustees meeting minutes, June 15, 1994. Howard County Library archival records.

⁵¹ Board of Library Trustees meeting minutes, September 7, 1994. Howard County Library archival records

⁵² FY1995 Capital Budget document dated September 14, 1995. Howard County Library archival records

⁵³ Harrington, Erica C. “Ideas sought for Route 97 complex” *The Sun*, July 30, 1996; ProQuest Recent Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun*, p 1B

⁵⁴ Harrington, Erica C. “Concerns aired about government complex, park” *The Sun*. August 1, 1996. ProQuest Recent Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun*, p 5B

⁵⁵ Internal county correspondence dated Feb. 25, 1997. Howard County Library archival records.

newspaper reported that the tentative name for the entire project was “Glenwood Center.”⁵⁶ It was reported that area residents had use of a storefront library in nearby Lisbon, and thus the library was referred to as “Glenwood library” by a reporter in early 1997.⁵⁷ However, throughout 1997 the proposed center was typically referred to in newspaper articles as “The Glenwood Center.”^{58 59 60}

A slight shift occurred in 1998 when newspapers began referring to the city where the library was being constructed, Cooksville.⁶¹ Soon, the branch had its grand opening on August 28, 2000⁶² and was renovated in 2021. A library policy existed in 1988 in which libraries “shall be named for the geographic area which it serves.” Given the Glenwood Branch has a postal address of Cooksville, MD many speculated if it would become the “Cooksville Branch.”⁶³ However, for several years, the library was referred to in Board of Library Trustees’ planning documents as “Western Howard County Branch,” but at some point, the name became “Glenwood Branch.” It is important to note that we were unable to find a meeting of the Library Board Trustees in which an agenda item was the official naming of the branch. Furthermore, we found no indication of the naming happening at either the official nor the unofficial opening of the branch.

As for the historical name “Glenwood,” conflicting information exists. The question: “where did the Glenwood name come from?” is one we tried to answer definitively without much success. First, we tried to locate information regarding the first historical use of the name Glenwood. In 1841, a post office was announced in the newspaper that could be found “at Mathew’s Store.” James B. Mathews was appointed the postmaster.⁶⁴ On the 1860 Martenet map, Cooksville is indicated by “Cooksville” with a separate store and post office near the blacksmith shop and the word “Glenwood” is not shown though the home of J.B. Mathews and the store/P.O. is.⁶⁵ By the release of the 1878 Hopkins map, twelve areas with post offices were prevalently noted on the district four section of the atlas with three areas without one: Lisbon, Dorseyville and Shaferville. In the list of patrons for the atlas, post office addresses are listed for them and the word “Glenwood” was found.⁶⁶ It was a time in Howard County’s history when the appropriate post office was your address.

⁵⁶ Hedgpeth, Dana. “Officials see delay for library project” Jan. 1, 1997. The Sun. ProQuest Recent Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun*, p 3B

⁵⁷ Timberg, Craig. “Glenwood library may open in 1999.” April 30, 1997. The Sun. ProQuest Recent Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun*, p1B

⁵⁸ Wilber, Del Quentin. “Proposed center’s design to suit site, planners say” The Sun, September 25, 1997. ProQuest Recent Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun*, pg. 5B

⁵⁹ Hedgpeth, Dana. “Proposed library delay is criticized.” The Sun, April 1, 1997. ProQuest Recent Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun*, pg. 1B

⁶⁰ Timberg, Craig. “Glenwood library may open in 1999” The Sun, April 30, 1997. ProQuest Recent Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun*, pg. 1B

⁶¹ Wilber, Del Quentin. “Library, mall are likely for Cooksville” The Sun, October 15, 1998. ProQuest Recent Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun*, pg. 1B

⁶² Hopkins, Jamie Smith. “Library opens with extra frills” The Sun, August 29, 2000. ProQuest Recent Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun*, pg. 1B

⁶³ Howard County Library System, Glenwood Branch listing, <http://hclibrary.org/locations/glenwood-branch>.

⁶⁴ “New Post Office,” *The Baltimore Sun*, August 16, 1841, page 2; Newspapers by Ancestry.

⁶⁵ 1860 Martenet map snip of Cooksville in relation to Mathews store and post office

⁶⁶ 1878 Hopkins Atlas entry with Glenwood post office addresses

A story found in many sources recirculates the notion that the village was renamed Glenwood from the name Mathews. More specifically, Celia Holland's "Old Homes and Families of Howard County Maryland" suggests that: "In 1841 a post office was established as "Mathews Store, Anne Arundel County"; the village was then known simply as Mathews. On 13 January 1874 the name was officially changed to Glenwood, a name chosen by Professor Lycurgus Mathews, son of James and later headmaster of Glenwood Institute."⁶⁷ Given the context in the sentence, Holland was referring to the post office being renamed by Lycurgus. Information was located in the Howard County Historical Society, Inc.'s Fall 2015 newsletter about Glenwood, in which it was written that the "small village was known as 'Mathews Store, Anne Arundel County'"⁶⁸ which is likely accurate. We were not able to find any evidence for how the area got its name, and it is referred to as an unincorporated community. However, we do know that it was not named by an act of the General Assembly as Elkridge Landing and Ellicott City had been.

The Maryland Historical Trust inventory created in 2004 for the Alfred and Sophia Mathews Farmhouse (HO-850) noted that "The village was known as Mathews until 1874, when it was renamed Glenwood, after the private school founded by Lycurgus Mathews" with no direct citation provided for the information.⁶⁹ Holland's book was generally cited within the inventory as a source, which does not mention it being named after a school. Within Holland's book was a footnote that referenced a 1927 family reunion booklet written about the Mathews family by Kent Greenfield. Found within was "The Glenwood we all reverence and love was largely fashioned and built by Uncle Kirk. He gave it the name, Glenwood, to which name the post office was changed from Mathews Store."⁷⁰ In Joshua D. Warfield's 1905 book entry about Glenwood, he noted that the village was an "...outgrowth of a country store and post office long kept by Mr. James B. Mathews."⁷¹ The earliest entry located for the use of the word "Glenwood" in newspapers was on October 29, 1868 in reference to the home of William C. Polk.⁷²

The Glenwood Library contained a room called "Pindell Room" named for Elizabeth Pindell, who served as postmaster for almost 42 years.⁷³ We did not seek information concerning when that naming was done, and the library website does not list a room with that name that is available to the public for meetings. The branch also has a Studio A and Studio B.

/MJ and MG

⁶⁷ Holland, Celia. Old Homes and Family of Howard County Maryland. 1987. p 211-12

⁶⁸ The Legacy newsletter. Howard County Historical Society, Inc. Fall 2015, Vol 52, Number 4. p 1

⁶⁹ MD Historical Trust, Maryland inventory of Historic Properties Form, Inventory No. HO-850. Pdf p 6

⁷⁰ Greenfield, Kirk. The Mathews Family: pages from the lives of James B. and Kitty Griffith Mathews. 1927. p 34 Accessible via Familysearch.org

⁷¹ Warfield, Joshua D. Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties. 1905 accessible via <https://archive.org/details/foundersofannear00warf/page/443/mode/1up?q=glenwood&view=theater>

⁷² Newspaper clipping with the word Glenwood, The Democratic Advocate, Oct. 29, 1868

⁷³ "In a short while, Glenwood will have three generations of post offices", Luther Young, The Sun, December 9, 1979. ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun*, p HL3.

Public Facilities & Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission

The Library Buildings Report

January 9, 2023

Asset Name	Howard County Library System, Charles E. Miller Branch & Historical Center
Classification	Building
Location	9421 Frederick Road Ellicott City, MD 21042
Dates	Opened 2011; Named pursuant to county council resolution in 2006
Who Named	Howard County Council endorsed the name; the county and library board defined what “historical center” would entail.
Reason for Name	Undetermined reasons, but for Charles E. Miller and a historical research and genealogy center for the county
Association with Slavery or Oppression – YES Miller materially participated in the significant delay of the desegregation of county schools. He was reported to have led the effort to oppose the creation of a charter for the county’s Interracial Commission. As a developer, he sold at least 11 properties with racially restrictive covenants he inserted into the deeds between 1939 and 1948.	

NOTE: The last Public Spaces Commission incorrectly reported that land for this library had been donated by Miller. The state database, Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation, contains an incorrect deed citation for this building address. Book 11684 Page 166 data is not a record that pertains to any county library. The correct deed reference is Book 10952 page 277 and it reflects Howard County Maryland’s 2007 purchase of 7.186 acres of land for the price of \$1,000,000 (one million dollars).

County Desegregation:

Charles E. Miller ran a bus service for several years, having a contract with the school system to do so. He began his public service by being appointed a trial magistrate. In 1938, he was recommended to complete the unexpired term for county commissioner Noll who had died.⁷⁴ According to the obituary written about him, he was a member of the county school board for twelve years.⁷⁵ His tenure began in 1950 as can be seen from county school board meeting minutes. This was a time in local history when segregated schooling existed in the county. Miller was a part of the school board when the cases that became known as *Brown v Board of Education* (there were multiple ones consolidated into one) came before the U.S. Supreme Court

⁷⁴ “Named G.O.P. Candidate: C.E. Miller To Run For Howard County Post.” The Sun (1837-); Oct 27, 1938; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun* p 22

⁷⁵ “Charles Miller, Howard Republican, Dies” The Sun (1837-); July 10, 1979; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun* p A8

in 1952, a fact that would have been known by many in the country at the time. Any actions or inactions of people should be viewed with the lens of this information. In January 1952 Miller donated \$1000 towards the purchase price of land for a new Ellicott City “colored school” to be built upon.⁷⁶ This was mentioned in the prior commission report, but without important context.

In the February 11, 1952 Board of Education minutes, it was recorded that the property owner Nellie Dehnhart on Fells Lane was made an offer by the board for \$3250 for four acres of land but that she wouldn’t sell for less than \$5k. She was then offered \$4k by the board. Miller was noted to have donated \$2500 towards the purchase of an additional twelve acres of land for the new white high school in Ellicott City, and an additional \$2000 towards the purchase of the site for the colored school from Dehnhart.⁷⁷ The board purchased the Dehnhart site on March 4, 1952 for an undisclosed sum. (Book MWB231, p. 0157)

In June 1954, the state board of education and the State Superintendent of Schools issued the official position of Maryland after the Supreme Court’s first decision in *Brown*. The statement contained: “The laws of Maryland specifically provide for segregation in the public schools and in the teachers colleges. In view of this law requiring segregation, no program of integration can be put into effect until the decision of the Supreme Court becomes final and an effective date is set by the Supreme Court.”⁷⁸ After further legal arguments, a second Supreme Court opinion got issued in May 1955 in which local school boards were told to proceed “with all deliberate speed” to desegregate schools. This left it up to the interpretation of state boards of education, which provided guidance to local boards. MontgomeryHistory.com has a great website that provides information relative to their desegregation process and timeline, and one webpage mentions that “..legal barriers to desegregation had been removed from the Maryland books.”⁷⁹ by the summer of 1955. It is noteworthy that the then-Attorney General of Maryland was Howard County’s own C. Ferdinand Sybert.⁸⁰ Evidenced by a document from the state board of education, it is known that Sybert’s office participated in the Supreme Court argument of the case via *amicus curiae* (a filing done by stating you have a strong interest in the case). The language written by Sybert and provided to the state board is instructive regarding the thought of the day by some, and interested readers should consult that for context to understand how our state attorney general was guiding the state.⁸¹

While President of the Board of Education of Howard County, Miller participated in the official board statement that got issued on August 16, 1955 regarding county school segregation and the Supreme Court decision. The board had decided not to begin desegregation that September. Part of their statement contained: “There remains for consideration the manner in which this decision is to be carried out in those areas, such as Howard County, where racial discrimination has been

⁷⁶ 1952 donation. Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, Jan 8, 1952. PDF p 2 year 1952

⁷⁷ 1952 further donations. Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, Jan 21, 1952. PDF p 4-5

⁷⁸ 1954 Board statement desegregation. Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, June 1, 1954

⁷⁹ Montgomery History, “**After the Verdict, 1954-1955**”, <https://montgomeryhistory.org/online-exhibit-desegregation/after-the-verdict/>

⁸⁰ Archives of Maryland (Biographical Series), C. Ferdinand Sybert, MSA3520-1523.

<https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc3500/sc3520/001500/001523/html/1523bio.html>

⁸¹ Copy of Maryland Attorney General Sybert’s written opinion given to the state superintendent of schools, dated June 20, 1955. Courtesy of Maryland State Archives.

in effect.”⁸² Lawsuits demanding desegregation involving several Maryland school systems happened, including one at the United States District Court that involved a class action lawsuit of 66 Black children in St. Mary’s County that Attorney General Sybert’s office worked to dismiss. The Howard County Board of Education had a lawsuit filed against it by a group of citizens that sought to compel the board to keep separate schools in operation, and an aspect of that case got heard and decided by Maryland’s highest court in 1957. There is no way that a good examination can be made in this paper regarding the many aspects of Howard County’s desegregation efforts, and we would encourage the county to have one finally created that is highly accessible to everyone since it is important local history.

In November 2012, the county Board of Education issued a proclamation that expressed “..profound regret that the Howard County Public School System maintained separate and unequal public schools..” mentioning the prior board’s slow response to comply with federal law.⁸³ Local desegregation wasn’t fully achieved until 1965, and Miller was elected a county commissioner and installed on December 4, 1962. He was therefore part of the delay. Montgomery County claims to have been the first county to desegregate, according to the previously cited website. Baltimore City is generally acknowledged to have been the first jurisdiction in Maryland to do so.

Human and Racial Relations

During Miller’s second time on the Board of County Commissioners (precursor to county council), several things were going on in the county that dealt with human relations and racial relations. Fels Lane Urban Renewal is one. Again, there is much that should be written and documented about this era of county history that we were unable to find compiled anywhere and made easily accessible for the public. One newspaper article was found that contained information relative to Miller’s publicly articulated views on Fels Lane community occupants while he was the chair of the county commission. Some of the public housing residents discussed a possible rent strike due to rental conditions, and he made a comment to the press that they were “slovenly, ungrateful, and financially irresponsible.”⁸⁴ It had made the national press that Ellicott City had become a slum.⁸⁵ The urban renewal project was hotly contested.

The county had an Interracial Commission that had been formed at some point in 1962 (Miller was installed at the end of the year), and it too has a history that involves Miller. He was part of the Board of County Commissioners when the Interracial Commission was expanded, but he was reported to have led the effort to reject a charter for that commission that would have given them

⁸² 1955 Board statement desegregation. Howard County Board of Education meeting minutes, Aug 16, 1955

⁸³ Garver, Rachel and Nienass, Benjamin (2020) "Making Sense of and with “Profound Regret”: Howard County Board of Education’s Apology for a Racially Segregated Public School System," Journal of Educational Controversy: Vol. 14 : No. 1, Article 3.

⁸⁴ “Rent Strike Plan Rebuked” The Sun. (1837-); Aug 31, 1966; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun* p A15

⁸⁵ “Ellicott City Named Slum Area” The Sun. (1837-); Dec 6, 1963; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun* p 44

powers relative to investigations into discrimination complaints.⁸⁶ It was reported that the Interracial Commission filed suit against the county and then the county commissioners dissolved it. When a new Human Relations Commission got formed by county council, Miller objected to it. This was the general time period in which Columbia was being planned in the county, which Miller publicly opposed.⁸⁷

Racial Restrictions in Deeds

Personally, Charles Miller was a developer who engaged in the oppression of people of color due to his support of racial segregation with his creation of white-only communities in the county. As an example, Miller and his partner Benjamin Mellor, Jr. sought to establish the Mont Ridge subdivision off of Montgomery Road as a white-only development. Mellor had been the Howard County Clerk of the Court during much of the same time period.⁸⁸ Eleven deeds with racial restrictions were easily located that were made by Miller and his wife, Grace, between 1939 and 1948. An example of the language used in such deeds is found in the 1947 deed in which Miller and his wife sold a tract of land to Guilford and Ella Baker⁸⁹:

"(6) The above described lot and any part thereof shall not be used, occupied by, or conveyed to a person, or persons, of Negro descent or extraction, except that this restriction shall not apply to negroes or persons of negro descent or extraction employed as domestics thereon."

The Naming of the Library:

There are two parts to the name of the branch: "Charles E. Miller" and the addition that was done to include "Historical Center." The Charles E. Miller Branch & Historical Center at 9421 Frederick Road opened on December 17, 2011. It is located right beside the original location, which is now the Administrative Branch. It was reported in the newspaper in October 2004 that the library felt confident that it could acquire land from the Miller family for the new branch.⁹⁰ Months earlier in February 2004, it was reported in the newspaper that the then library director was unveiling plans for a new library that would be shared by the nonprofit Howard County Historical Society, Inc. and that it had the support of Courtney Watson (then chair of the school board) and Paul Miller (then board member for Howard County Historical Society, Inc.).⁹¹ Focus groups were reported to have been conducted with various groupings of stakeholders in June

⁸⁶ "Bias Panel Established" *The Sun*. (1837-); May 6, 1969; *The Sun*; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun* p A10

⁸⁷ "Howard Gives Guidelines" *The Sun*. (1837-); Feb 19, 1965; *The Sun*; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun* p 26

⁸⁸ Mellor clerk listing <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/speccol/sc2600/sc2685/county/html/hoclerks.html>

⁸⁹ Miller racial covenant example. Deed between Charles and Grace Miller and Guilford and Ella Baker, dated Aug 13, 1947

⁹⁰ Alexander, Sandy. "Growth prompts \$57 million library plan." *The Sun* ; Baltimore, Md. [Baltimore, Md]. 28 Oct 2004; ProQuest Recent Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun*, p 3B

⁹¹ Carson, Larry. "Big plans for small library in Howard". *The Sun* ; Baltimore, Md. [Baltimore, Md]. 10 Feb 2004; ProQuest Recent Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun*, p 1B.

2004, according to the library assessment and master plan prepared later that year. In the Howard County Library Facilities Assessment and Master Plan prepared November 2004, the rankings of eight library service functions that had been posed to and done by focus group participants was listed in a section of the report titled "Library Service Rankings Results." Ranked number eight in importance in this section was "Research local history and my family's genealogy."⁹² The report indicated that focus groups reported the following interest: "would like to see the historical society and Columbia archives more a part of the library."⁹³

A policy regarding naming of libraries was in effect by this time mandating that they were to be named after the geographic area they serve with provisions for rooms or areas of libraries to be named for people. The original branch contained Miller's name as a result of county resolution 24-1979 which facilitated the renaming of the Frederick Road Library to the Charles E. Miller Memorial Library (refer to Admin branch writeup). On June 5, 2006 then County Councilman Christopher Merdon introduced legislation in the form of a resolution to urge that any new library "retain the name Miller Branch" which was amended to read "... include "Charles E. Miller" in its name."⁹⁴ It was adopted July 3, 2006. The purchase of the land was finalized on October 11, 2007 between Paul Miller on behalf of The Miller Land Company and County Executive Ken Ulman on behalf of the county.⁹⁵ A variance was requested from building height requirements, and the county's Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement for CR66 - 2009 provides a great summary on the history of the project up to that date.⁹⁶ In December 2009, a top-out ceremony was conducted at the site, a celebration with roots in Scandinavian superstition.⁹⁷ The Howard County Historical Society, Inc. is the only local history nonprofit with space in the branch, operating pursuant to a lease agreement executed between the county, library board and the nonprofit on July 12, 2010. Due to the desire to preserve the tax-exempt status of any bonds used in the financing of the building, the county does not charge the nonprofit any rent while the financing is outstanding.⁹⁸ 1,962 square feet of the 3,991 square foot Historical Center are utilized as the "Historical Society Suite" exclusively for the operations of the nonprofit.

This branch has room names as follows: Avalon, Ellicott, Patapsco. We did not seek information concerning when that naming was done.

/MJ

⁹² Howard County Library Facilities Assessment and Master Plan: Facilities and Services-2005 to 2030. Providence Associates, Inc. November 2004. PDF p 23

⁹³ Ibid. PDF p 22

⁹⁴ County Council of Howard County, MD resolution CR87-2006 adopted with amendment July 3, 2006., courtesy Howard County Council

⁹⁵ Miller Land to County. Deed dated October 11, 2007 Maryland Land Records, book 10952 page 277

⁹⁶ CR66-2009 Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement dated June 25, 2009, courtesy Howard County Council

⁹⁷ Holzberg, Janene. "Topping Out Library". *The Baltimore Sun* ; Baltimore, Md. [Baltimore, Md]. 05 Dec 2010: ProQuest Recent Newspapers: *The Baltimore Sun*, p G1.

⁹⁸ Agreement of Lease with HCHS dated July 12, 2010 section 3, courtesy of Board of Library Trustees

Public Facilities & Spaces Report Evaluation and Action Commission

The Library Buildings Report

January 9, 2023

Asset Name	Howard County Library System, Savage Branch & STEM Education Center
Classification	Building
Location	9525 Durness Lane, Laurel, MD 20723
Dates	1922 Original Library, 1966 as Savage Branch, 1991 New Building, renovated 2014 as STEM Center
Who Named	unknown
Reason for Name	unknown for certain
Association with Slavery or Oppression – TBD.	
This site is named after a geographic location that had a history of oppression, however the namesake, John Savage, had no known history of slavery or oppression.	

Summary:

The Savage Branch & STEM Education Center is located just outside of Savage, Maryland with the postal address in North Laurel. In July of 1922, a corporation was formed called Carroll Baldwin Memorial Institute, Inc. for a “Public Library, and/or for a Community Hall.”⁹⁹ In December of 1922, a newspaper reported that the city of Savage had been “..presented with a stone library and community hall by the Savage Manufacturing Company..”¹⁰⁰ This pre dated the official Howard County Library System, but was likely a library only for the Savage community. On February 29, 1956, The *Ellicott City Times* reported that the Carroll Baldwin Memorial Institute had become the 10th “library station” of the Howard County Public Library.¹⁰¹ It is not known how long the “station” remained open, but we noted that the county library system was supplying Bookmobile library services to Savage Elementary School in 1963.¹⁰² In 1966, the Board of Library Trustees signed a 3-year lease in Carroll Baldwin Memorial Hall, with an option for another 3 years, but it is not known how long it operated under this lease.¹⁰³ This location became a “reading center” in the 1970s.¹⁰⁴ A permanent branch opened in 1991.¹⁰⁵

⁹⁹ Certificate of Incorporation of Carroll Baldwin Memorial Institute, Inc. State of Maryland. 23 June 1922. Maryland State Archives.

¹⁰⁰ *Prince Georges Enquirer and Southern Maryland Advertiser*. Fri. 15 Dec. 1922. Vol. 35, p 2.

¹⁰¹ “Library at Savage Has Opened Again” *Ellicott City Times*, Feb 29, 1956. p 1.

¹⁰² January 28, 1964 Board of Library Trustees Meeting Minutes, Howard County Library archival records

¹⁰³ Lease of Library at Carroll Hall. July 21, 1966. Board of Library Trustees Meeting Minutes, Howard County Library archival records.

¹⁰⁴ Board of Library Trustees Meeting Minutes, Howard County Library archival records. April 1979.

¹⁰⁵ Howard County Public Library System. Historical Timeline. <https://hclibrary.org/about-us/history/timeline/>. Accessed 8-25-2022.

The land for the new Savage Branch building was secured from Gorman Road Limited Partnership by Howard County Maryland on January 31, 1989 and consisted of 2.78 acres.¹⁰⁶ The building was renovated in 2015. Prior to the renovation, the branch shared the facility with a senior center and a county health department office. When those organizations moved to the North Laurel Community Center in 2013, the library expanded into the full 24,000 square feet of the building.¹⁰⁷¹⁰⁸

Regarding the name “Savage”, in 1822, the Williams brothers (George, Amos, Cumberland and Nathaniel) and others chartered the “Savage Manufacturing Company” with an investment of \$20,000 from their friend and Philadelphia banker John Savage. The primary purpose of this company was the manufacture and sale of cotton duck cloth. The company built housing for their workers as well as a company store and the new town was called Savage, after the company. John Savage never lived in the town that seems to have been named for him.¹⁰⁹

The library branch is likely named after this geographic location in the county – the village of Savage—though we were unable to find any clear documentation of the naming process that was utilized. John Savage was a banker from Philadelphia who had no known ties to slavery or oppression.

Regarding the issue of oppression in the town of Savage, racism left an indelible impression within the Black community. In *The History of Blacks in Howard County*¹¹⁰ the opening paragraph in the chapter on Savage explains the feeling better than any other explanation could:

“In any given unabridged dictionary, a savage, noun, is most likely to be defined as ‘a person of extreme, unfeeling, brutal cruelty.’ Take this person and clone to the extreme unfeeling, brutal cruelty into every brain, nerve, heart, skin, intestine, and bone cell - indeed, into every cell in the body of each white man, woman and child living in Savage, and one will have the description of the place and its inhabitants as repeated by blacks in every community of the county. Savage residents hated black people and they made certain that every black person who dared cross the unincorporated boundaries of Savage knew about it.”

An exploration of this oppression is written about in Savage as a “sundown town” that was unwelcoming to Black people, where they did not dare to cross after sundown for any reason at all.¹¹¹

106 Gorman Road Partnership to Howard County Maryland. Howard County Circuit Court (Land Records) CMP 1955, p 0614, MSA_CE53_1941.

107 Davis, Nayana. “Library officials show off Savage Branch's \$6.1M makeover,” <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/howard/bs-xpm-2014-07-11-bs-md-ho-savage-branch-20140711-story.html> Accessed November 15, 2022

109 “Savage Mill Historic District,” Maryland's National Register Properties. <https://mht.maryland.gov/nr/NRDetail.aspx?NRID=270&FROM=NRMapHO.html> Accessed November 16, 2022
110 Cornelison, Alice; Silas E. Craft, Sr., and Lillie Price. 1986. *History of Blacks in Howard County, Maryland*. Howard County NAACP. p 61-62

¹¹¹ Davis, Wayne. *Savage: A Recent Sundown Town*. *Voices of Laurel*, Summer 2022, Vol.2 No. 3, p 28. https://www.laurelhistory.com/files/ugd/380430_0bf9d9786b9945b4814431edd46fd0f2.pdf Accessed 8-25-2022.

Of course, this is a portrait of a situation that is distant in years, but still in the memories of some in the communities. Savage is no longer a sundown town and welcomes everyone, but understanding this history reveals some of the long-standing bitterness that may exist today within some when they hear the name “Savage.”

The branch also contains a STEM Education Center operated under the authority of the library. Meeting rooms were named after Albert Einstein, Carl Sagan and DaVinci.¹¹² We did not seek information concerning when that naming was done.

/WD

¹¹² Howard County Library System. <https://howardcounty.librarycalendar.com/reserve-room/room>. Accessed November 15, 2022.